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EXAMINER

CULLER, JILL E

ART UNIT

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/565,888	Applicant(s) PERCIVALLE, DOMENICO	
	Examiner JILL E. CULLER	Art Unit 2854	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 July 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 16, 19 and 20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 January 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 12-14 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,656,083 to Schonberger in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,283,023 to Christmann et al.

With respect to claim 1, Schonberger teaches an inking and doctor unit for a printing cylinder, comprising a casing, 4, a doctor assembly, including a doctor, 5, fitted to a doctor carrier, 8, and an inking chamber, 3, for containing ink to be applied to a print cylinder, the inking chamber being formed by a concave inner surface of the casing and at least partly by the doctor assembly; the casing and the doctor assembly forming a box body closed except for one side engaging in use a print cylinder, 1, characterized in that the doctor carrier comprises a rocking support, 8, rotating about a regulating axis, 9, parallel in use to an axis of rotation of the print cylinder. See column 2, lines 18-27 and Fig. 1.

Schonberger does not teach that the doctor is mounted to lie flat with respect to a lateral surface of the print cylinder, when the box body engages the print cylinder; or that it has a slide integral with the doctor and which slides on the support.

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Christmann et al. teaches an inking and doctor unit for a rotogravure print and spread cylinder, comprising a casing; a doctor assembly, including a doctor, 21, fitted to a doctor carrier, 19, and an inking chamber bounded by a concave inner surface of the casing and at least partly by the doctor assembly; the casing and the doctor assembly forming a box body closed except for one side engaging in use a print cylinder, 2, characterized in that the doctor is mounted to lie flat with respect to a lateral surface of the print cylinder, when the box body engages the print cylinder; and in that the doctor carrier comprises a rocking support, 17, rotating about a regulating axis parallel in use to an axis of rotation of the print cylinder and a slide integral with the doctor and which slides on the support. See column 1, line 44 - column 2, line 48 and the Figure.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Schonberger to have the doctor blade orientation and sliding adjustment, as taught by Christmann et al., in order to more precisely position the doctor blade with respect to the printing cylinder.

With respect to claim 12, Christmann et al. teaches that the doctor is fitted to the doctor carrier for resting in use on the lateral surface of the print cylinder along a doctor line, the doctor forming an acute angle with a plane tangent to the lateral surface of the print cylinder along the doctor line on the ink feed side. See column 2, lines 33-48 and the Figure

With respect to claim 13, Christmann et al. teaches actuating members, 23, for moving the slide, 28, with respect to the support, 17. See column 2, lines 12-32 and the Figure.

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With respect to claim 14, Christmann et al. teaches an inking roller, 4, housed inside the inking chamber with an axis of rotation parallel to the axis of rotation of the print cylinder for pressing ink collected inside the inking chamber against the lateral surface of the print cylinder. See column 2, lines 3-11 and the Figure.

With respect to claim 17, Schonberger and Christmann et al. teach a printing assembly comprising a print cylinder, 2, having an axis of rotation, characterized by comprising an inking and doctor unit as claimed in claim 1.

With respect to claim 18, Schonberger teaches actuating means, 11, for adjusting the relative position of the inking and doctor unit with respect to the print cylinder. See column 2, lines 36-45 and Figure 1.

3. Claims 2-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schonberger in view of Christmann et al. as applied to claims 1, 12-14 and 17-18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,945,832 to Odom.

With respect to claims 2-5, Schonberger and Christmann et al. teach all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1, 12-14 and 17-18, except for first sealing means for hermetic connection to the print cylinder which are flat-surface sealing means designed to engage opposite end surfaces of the print cylinder, comprising a first and a second plate fitted at opposite ends of the casing and having respective sealing edges facing each other and arranged to slide on respective said end surfaces when the box body engages the print cylinder, such that the first and second plate are movable with respect to the casing; and by comprising elastic means associated with the first and

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second plate to press the first and second plate against respective said end surfaces when the box body engages the print cylinder.

Odom teaches a cylinder and inking and doctor unit including first sealing means, 57, for hermetic connection to the print cylinder which are flat-surface sealing means designed to engage opposite end surfaces of the print cylinder, comprising a first and a second plate fitted at opposite ends of the casing and having respective sealing edges facing each other and arranged to slide on respective said end surfaces when the box body engages the print cylinder, such that the first and second plate are movable with respect to the casing; and by comprising elastic means associated with the first and second plate to press the first and second plate against respective said end surfaces when the box body engages the print cylinder. See column 7, lines 17-29 and Fig. 1.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Schonberger to include sealing means, as taught by Odom, in order to limit ink leakage.

With respect to claims 6-7, Schonberger and Christmann et al. do not teach that the first sealing means are radial sealing means shaped to engage the lateral surface of the print cylinder, are carried by the casing, at opposite ends of the doctor assembly and comprise sealing edges of the casing shaped to slide on the lateral surface of the print cylinder along at least a predetermined arc, when the box body engages the print cylinder.

Odom teaches a cylinder and inking and doctor unit wherein the first sealing means are radial sealing means shaped to engage the lateral surface of the print

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cylinder, are carried by the casing, at opposite ends of the doctor assembly and comprise sealing edges of the casing shaped to slide on the lateral surface of the print cylinder along at least a predetermined arc, when the box body engages the print cylinder.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Schonberger to include sealing means, as taught by Odom, in order to limit ink leakage. See column 7, lines 17-29 and Fig. 1.

With respect to claims 8-10, Schonberger and Christmann et al. do not teach second sealing means between the doctor assembly and the casing comprising seals located at opposite ends of the doctor assembly, flush with a first and second lateral wall respectively of the casing, comprising pads made of low-friction material, incorporated in the first and second lateral wall of the casing and located at opposite ends of the doctor assembly and pressure means for pressing the pads against the opposite ends of the doctor assembly.

Odom teaches a cylinder and inking and doctor unit having second sealing means between the doctor assembly and the casing comprising seals located at opposite ends of the doctor assembly, flush with a first and second lateral wall respectively of the casing, comprising pads made of low-friction material, incorporated in the first and second lateral wall of the casing and located at opposite ends of the doctor assembly and pressure means for pressing the pads against the opposite ends of the doctor assembly. See column 7, lines 17-29 and Fig. 1.

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It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Schonberger to include sealing means, as taught by Odom, in order to limit ink leakage.

With respect to claim 11, Schonberger and Christmann et al. do not teach third sealing means between a sealing surface of the doctor assembly extending continuously along the whole width of the doctor assembly, and an edge of the casing adjacent to the sealing surface.

Odom teaches a cylinder and inking and doctor unit having third sealing means between a sealing surface of the doctor assembly extending continuously along the whole width of the doctor assembly, and an edge of the casing adjacent to the sealing surface. See column 7, lines 17-29 and Fig. 1.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to further modify the apparatus of Schonberger to include sealing means, as taught by Odom, in order to limit ink leakage.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 15-16 and 19-20 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 15, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an inking and doctor unit as claimed, particularly including a hood designed to define, in use, a wetting chamber about a portion of the lateral surface of the print cylinder extending substantially between a print area and the inking chamber.

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With respect to claim 19, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an inking and doctor unit as claimed, particularly wherein the actuating means comprise rotary actuating means for rotating the inking and doctor unit about the axis of rotation of the print cylinder.

With respect to claim 20, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an inking and doctor unit as claimed, particularly comprising first translatable actuating means for translating the inking and doctor in a first direction substantially perpendicular to the axis of rotation and second translatable actuating means for translating the inking and doctor unit in a second direction substantially parallel to the axis of rotation.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JILL E. CULLER whose telephone number is (571)272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jec

/Jill E. Culler/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2854